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RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 0597
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 8449
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SUBJECT: ROK HOPES FOR CHINA-TAWAIN CONSENSUS AT OIE

REF: STATE 67444

(SBU) Poloff on May 17 conveyed reftel points seeking a postponement of a PRC resolution at the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) that might obstruct Taiwan's continued OIE participation to Lee Yoon-jong, WTO Division Deputy Director at MOFAT's Multilateral Trade Bureau. On May 21, Lee officially noted that, like the USG, the ROKG preferred that the PRC and Taiwan find a mutually acceptable resolution. However, if the PRC and Taiwan failed to reach a consensus and the issue were put to a vote, the ROKG would have to "wait and see" how the situation developed before deciding on a response. The possible vote was unlikely to occur before May 25, so there was time for events to unfold further, Lee added. Speaking personally, Lee shared the view that the OIE should focus on animal health and not be sidetracked by a China-Taiwan political issue.
VERSHBOW